THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (b) Lead is being phased out from petrol. Unleaded Petrol (ULP) is already available in Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai and Taj Trapezium. Supply of ULP has been introduced in the capitals of all States and Union Territories and major towns having population of 10 lakh and above. The ULP would be made available throughout the country by 1.2.2000 and as a 'result all vehicles, including Government vehicles will be using only ULP.

Criteria for Allotment of LPG, Kerosene and Petrol Outlets

2416. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for the allotment of LPG agencies, kerosene outlets and petrol pumps;

(b) whether these agencies are allotted in different States according to their population;

(c) if so, the number of LPG agencies, kerosene outlets and petrol pumps allotted in Rajasthan, during 1997-98 and 1998-99, till date;

(d) whether these agencies are sufficient to meet the demand of the people of the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof; if not, the steps taken till date by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy, the following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country:

(i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.

(ii) Urban locations having population of 5,000 and above taking

into aeeount the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.

(iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.

(iV) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

The criteria for setting up of Retail Outlet dealerships and SKO/ LDQ dealerships is given in the Annexure. *(See* Appendix 188, Annexure No. 65)

Locations included in the Marketing Plans are advertised by the concerned Oil Company inviting applications from eligible candidates meeting criteria relating to age, nationality, educational qualification, income, residence, multiple dealership norms, etc. Selection is made on merit by the concerned Dealer Selection Board.

(c) During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and April 1999 till date 23 LPG distributorships, 11 retail outlet dealerships and 2 SKO/LDO dealerships have been allotted in Rajasthan.

(d) and (e) In order to meet the increased demand, 115 LPG distributorships, 40 Retail Outlet dealerships and 14 SKO/LDO dealerships have been included in the current Marketing Plan for Rajasthan.

L.P.G. and Petrol Pump Agency in Madhya Pradesh

†2417. SHRI DILIP JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the number of advertisements given for LPG and petrol pumps agencies during the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) what is the number of agencies actually opened, year-wise;

(c) the number of proposals under consideration; and

(d) what are the reasons for not opening up of any agency of L.P.G. in Jashpur District Headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Oil Companies have issued advertisement for 114 retail outlet dealerships and 383 LPG distributorships during the year 1997-98 to

†Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.